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C.I.A. Clerk and Ghanaian Charged in Espionage Case

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WASHINGTON, July 11 — A relative of the leader of Ghana and a woman who worked as a clerk for the Central Intelligence Agency in the Ghana nation have been arrested and charged with espionage, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today.

The woman, Sharon Scranage, a seven-year employee of the intelligence agency, was accused of passing classified information to representatives of the Ghanaian Government when she was stationed in Ghana.

The relative of the Ghanaian leader who was arrested, Michael Agbotui Soussoudis, is a 39-year old Ghanaian who the authorities said had developed a close personal relationship with Miss Scranage. A Government official said Mr. Soussoudis was either a cousin or nephew of the man who governs Ghana, Flight Lieut. Jerry John Rawlings.

Miss Scranage, 29, has told bureau agents she provided Mr. Soussoudis the identity of the Central Intelligence Agency chief in Ghana as well as the identities of intelligence agency operatives and Ghanaian dissidents working for the agency, according to a bureau complaint.

One of the Ghanaians working for the intelligence agency has since disappeared, a Government official said. The arrests were delayed while the agency recalled its agents from Ghana, the official added.

Miss Scranage also told bureau agents she had turned over C.I.A. operational plans for Ghana, classified cable traffic, information about Central Intelligence Agency communications and radio equipment as well as an intelligence report on military equipment, which a Ghanaian group had requested from Libya, the affidavit said.

The Ghana Embassy had no comment on the case.

Mr. Rawlings was a junior officer who came to power in a 1981 coup. He has sought warmer relations with the United States while maintaining ties with the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, Cuba and Libya.

In its complaint, the Government said Miss Scranage met with Mr. Soussoudis in Accra, the capital of Ghana, in December 1983 and told him of Ghanaians who were "covertly" providing government information to the Central Intelligence Agency.

According to the complaint, she continued to provide Mr. Soussoudis with information from C.I.A. files until May 1985, when she was apparently transferred from the West African post to an agency assignment in the Washington area.

The complaint said that Mr. Soussoudis was trying to arrest the individuals who were providing the intelligence agency with information the Government of Ghana considered secret.

Some of the meetings between the two took place "at her residence," the complaint said. On several occasions, a representative of Ghana's security forces also attended and made requests for specific pieces of information, such as the identities of three Ghanaians traveling abroad who had provided ma-

terial to the intelligence agency.

The request was made by a Ghanaian security official who told Miss Scranage that Mr. Soussoudis would collect the names from her in the United States.

Julianne Slifco, a bureau agent, said in an affidavit that Miss Scranage had told her she had removed classified information from several places in the C.I.A.'s offices in Accra, including her operational notebook and from microfiche records.

Miss Scranage was arrested in Virginia Thursday and apparently assisted the authorities in the arrest of Mr. Soussoudis, who was also arrested in Virginia.

Mr. Soussoudis appeared today before Magistrate W. Harris Grimsley in Alexandria, Va. He said he was related to the head of state in Ghana but was not associated with the country's government.

Magistrate Grimsley ordered him held without bail. The magistrate also ordered Miss Scranage held without bail.

Mr. Soussoudis listed his address as being in Queens. He said he had begun a business consulting company in Accra.

Mr. Soussoudis has a one-family home at 189-07 Quencer Road in the St. Albans section of Queens. Neighbors, who did not want to be identified, said Mr. Soussoudis, his wife and young daughter had moved in several years ago. The neighbors said that they had not seen Mr. Soussoudis at the home for many months and assumed he had moved out.